

Message Text

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15

ACTION SCS-03

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NSC-05 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-11 /063 W

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R 261500Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4322

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0186

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MZ

SUBJECT: DETAINED AMERICAN MISSIONARIES

REF: MAPUTO 173

1. DURING MEETING OF MOZAMBIQUE DIPLOMATIC CORPS MORNING OF FEB 26, CHARGE RAISED THE QUESTION OF CONTINUED DETENTION OF AMERICANS (AND OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS) WITHOUT TRIAL, FORMAL CHARGES BEING MADE AND RIGHT OF CONSULAR ACCESS. CHARGE STRESSED THAT GPRM'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT CONSULAR ACCESS WAS BASIS VIOLATION OF ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT MEETING HAD SAME BASIC PROBLEM. CHARGE THEN RECOMMENDED THAT DIPLOMATIC CORPS AS A GROUP SHOULD DRAFT AND SEND JOINT DEMARCHE TO MOZAMBIQUE FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUESTING SPEEDY RIGHT OF CONSULAR ACCESS.

2. CHARGE'S REQUEST WAS ENDORSED STRONGLY BY INDIAN AMBASSADOR AVADHUTH KAKODKAR AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR JOHN LEWEN. KAKODKAR NOTED THAT INDIAN BUSINESSMEN WHO HAD LIVED IN MOZAMBIQUE MOST OF THEIR LIVES WERE NOW BEING SUBJECT TO HARASSMENT AND DETENTION. NUMBEROUS REPRESENTATIONS AND DIPLOMATIC NOTES TO THE FOREIGN

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MINISTRY HAD FALLEN ON DEAF EARS. BRITISH AMBASSADOR RECITED

SIMILAR LITANY OF FRUSTRATIONS.

3. SWAZI AMBASSADOR SAMUEL SUKATI, ZAMBIAN CHARGE ARTHUR MAPOMA AND ITALIAN CHARGE MARIO ROMEO ALL ACKNOWLEDGED THEY HAD CITIZENS IN JAIL FOR WHOM THEY WERE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING. UNHCR REP ALSO SAID HE HAD BEEN DENIED RIGHT TO VISIT SHOUTHERN RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES.

4. TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR OBED KATAKAZA, DEAN OF THE CORPS, EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH US ALL, AND ALLOWED AS HOW TANZANIA HAD SIMILAR PROBLEM WITH GPRM. ELABORATING, HE SAID THAT AT ONE POINT HE HAD DEMANDED THAT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL LOPES TEMBE WRITE HIM A LETTER TO ALLOW HIM TO SEE A TANZANIAN PRISONER. TEMBE, AFTER MUCH PRODDING, RELUNTANTLY AGREED. WITH A SLY SMILE ON HIS FACE, KATAKAZA DECLARED EVEN HE COULD DO THIS ONLY ONCE WITHOUT SOME PERMANENT BACKLASH. HE THEN RECOMMENDED THAT WE NOT SEND A JOINT DEMARCHE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT INSTEAD FORWARD AN AID-MEMOIRE AS THE FIRST STEP IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM ON A GROUP BASIS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD DRAFT IT, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ALL OUR CASES, AND PRESENT IT PERSONALLY TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO ON MONDAY FEB 29 WHEN HE RETURNED FROM ADDIS ABABA. KATAKAZA SAID HE WOULD ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, AND THE PRESIDENT IF HE GOT AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. KWTAKAZA'S RDCOMMENDATION WAS APPROVED AS THE FIRST COURSE OF ACTION.

5. COMMENT: KATAKAZI WAS CLEARLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE NEED THAT SOMETHING BE DONE ABOUT CONSULAR ACCESS, BUT WAS RELUCTANT TO GO AS FAR AS ENDORSING A JOINT DEMARCHE, WHICH HE SEEMED TO THINK WAS PLAYING THE TRUMP CARD FIRST. HOWEVER, HE HAS PROMISED TO PREPARE THE AIDE-MEMOIRE BY MONDAY. AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE A COPY, IT WILL BE POUCHE TO THE DEPT. KATAKAZAJN BECAUSE OF HIS RELATIONSHIP TO PRESIDENT NYERERE, CARRIES SOME STATURE IN THE MOZAMBIQUE FOREIGN MINISTRY (AND IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY). THE REAL QUESTION IS WHETHER HIS REPRESENTATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL LEAD TO ANY ACTION IN THE MOZAMBIQUE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WHERE THE REAL PROBEM RESTS. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.

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6 IT SHOULD NOT PASS WITHOUT NOTICE THAT THE PROTUGUESE REP, WHO HAS MORE PEOPLE IN JAIL THAN ANYONE ELSE, SAT TIMIDLY AND MOUSE-LIKE THROUGH THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION.
CARSON

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NNN

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